

THE BEE

WASHINGTON

VOL. XXXI NO. 44

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY APRIL 1, 1911

The Great Conference

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE NEGRO.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 17, 18 and 19, 1912.

For some years past I have had in mind to invite here from different parts of the world—from Europe, Africa, the West Indies and North and South America—persons who are actively engaged or directly engaged as missionaries, or otherwise, in the work that is going on in Africa and elsewhere for the education and up-building of Negro peoples.

For this purpose it has been determined to hold at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 17, 18 and 19, 1912, a little more than a year from this time, an international conference on the Negro. Such a conference as this will offer the opportunity for those engaged in any kind of service in Africa, or the countries above mentioned, to become more intimately acquainted with the work and the problems of Africa and these other countries. Such a meeting will be valuable and helpful, also, in so far as it will give opportunity for a general interchange of ideas in organizing and systematizing the work of education of the native peoples in Africa and elsewhere and the preparation of teachers for that work. Wider knowledge of the work that each is doing should open means of co-operation that do not now exist.

The object of calling this conference at Tuskegee Institute is to afford an opportunity for studying the methods employed in helping the Negro people of the United States, with a view of deciding to what extent Tuskegee and Hampton methods may be applied to conditions in these countries, as well as to conditions in Africa.

It is hoped that numbers of people representing the different governments interested in Africa and the West Indies, as well as representatives from the United States and the countries of South America, will decide to attend this conference. Especially is it urged that missionary and other workers in these various countries be present and take an active part in the deliberations of the conference.

It is desirable, in any case, to have any suggestions as to what might be done to make the work of the conference more helpful to all concerned. The names of persons who would like to be present, with whom you are acquainted, will be appreciated, and through you they are invited to be present and take part in the deliberations of the conference.

Those who come to Tuskegee properly accredited will be welcomed and entertained as guests of the institution, and will be under no expense during their stay here.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.
Principal, Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

SHELBY J. DAVIDSON'S AUTOMATIC ATTACHMENT.

From a Laborer to One of the Most Competent Clerks in the Department, and an Inventor of National Character.

The announcement that Mr. Shelby J. Davidson, a colored clerk of the \$1,600 grade, in the Office of the Auditor for the Post Office, Treasury Department, has invented an automatic fee attachment for adding machines, gives him the distinction of being the first to be thus singled out as coming within the scope of the President's Efficiency and Economy Commission in contributing to the reduction of the operating expenses of the executive departments.

Mr. Davidson entered the government service sixteen years ago as a laborer, at the lowest salary of \$600. For more than twelve years he has

fice Department.

The attachment is intended to automatically list, register, add and total the fees charged for money-orders, as they are audited, the operator of the adding machine on which the work is done simply entering the amount of the order. At present the work requires two operations, with constant attention to entering the correct fee, with more or less liability to error. The attachment will fit on any adding machine on the market without changing the mechanism or necessitating any extensive alterations.

Mr. Davidson is to be congratulated not only on the success of his work in this line and the signal abilities he has shown to cope with such a mechanical marvel as the adding and calculating machines, but on being the only colored man, thus far known, to have entered and maintained a rating—and that a high one—in this new and untried field. He has certainly demonstrated his skill for handling tools, as well as the genius for contriving and executing. Mr. Davidson is 41 years old, a graduate of the College Department, Howard University, class of 1893, and a lawyer, being a member of his home bar, Lexington, Ky., and the bar of the District of Columbia. He has an attractive home life, with a wife and two children, a boy of 14 and a girl of 12. He has given some attention to literature; was at one time the president of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association. He has a well-selected library in both law and literature, and devotes much of his spare time to this as a recreation.

It is hoped that since this distinction of effort has come to him that the proper recognition will be given him for his perseverance, and too as a stimulus for other employees, that they may feel that adherence to duty well done is appreciated by the government. This invention has been the work of six years, covering the period of the use, in the office, of the double machines, which Mr. Davidson was instrumental in having placed on the work.

An instance of what clerks can do to reduce the operating expenses of the executive departments and aid in the movement for efficiency and economy which takes its inspiration from the White House, has just come to the notice of the new Auditor for the Post Office Department, Charles A. Kram.

Two clerks, Shelby J. Davidson, a clerk in the Auditor's Office, and Edwin J. Dowling, electrician for the Post Office Department, have collaborated in producing an electrical machine that automatically prints the money order fees as the amounts of the paid money orders are recorded for auditing purposes. It is being put to a thorough and trying test, and if ultimately adopted by the Secretary of the Treasury will reduce the work of listing paid money orders 20 per cent, and leave twelve clerks available for other work in the office.

Auditor Kram said today: "The investigations now being conducted in the departments of the efficiency of their clerical force and the economical administration of their affairs are daily bringing forth from the clerks themselves many suggestions of real value. If the inquiries already made should proceed no further they have accomplished much for the government in creating a sentiment among those in subordinate positions for greater activity in devising ways to improve the service and producing substantial results."

"This little appliance now brought to my notice, if it vindicates itself in the tests to which it is being subjected, is a substantial proof of this fact."

"The \$80,000,000 paid money orders sent to the Auditor's Office annually by postmasters represent a value of over \$570,000,000, with fees paid by the patrons of the money order branch, of over \$5,000,000. The Auditor's office uses 60 adding machines for totaling the amounts of the orders and for putting down and counting the fees paid by the purchasers. The daily average of a clerk, striking separately on the machines the amounts and fees, is 5,000 orders a day."

"With the use of the new attachment on the adding machines the clerks will register the sums called for on the money orders, while the new device will print automatically the fees that should have been paid, and add both columns."

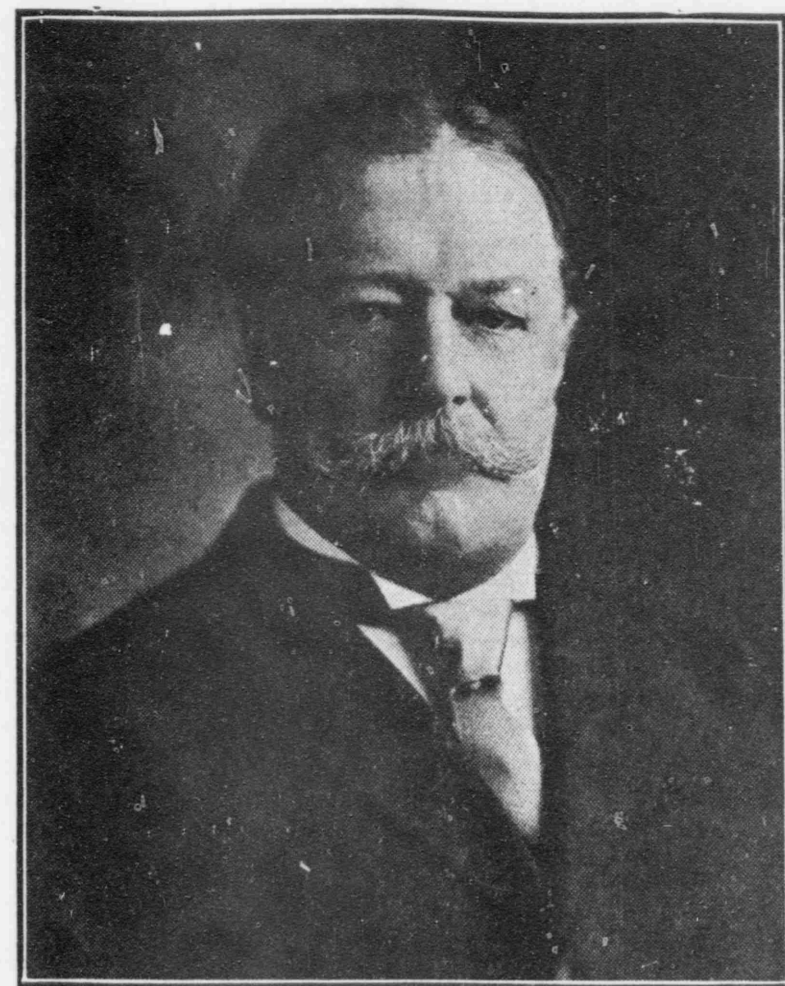
"That will mean a saving of 20 per cent in the work of listing paid money orders, and will leave the services of twelve clerks available for other pressing work that must be done, and that, too, without the reduction of any of the force or of any one's salary."

NEGRO REALTY COMPANY'S TROUBLES.

Metropolitan Mercantile in the Hands of a Receiver.

The Metropolitan Mercantile and Realty Company of New York, a \$1,000,000 concern, managed by Negroes, and doing a large real estate and store business, has gone into the hands of a receiver. According to John H. Atkins, president of the company, its present troubles are due in part to the panic of 1907 and in part to the failure of stockholders who bought on the installment plan to pay for their stock. He says that while the liabilities of the concern are less than \$50,000, there is more than \$157,000 due it from stockholders alone.

Complaints concerning the management of the company have been made to the District Attorney of New York County, but Atkins says they arose from a misunderstanding of a real estate deal in which the transfer of property taken in his name to the company was unrecorded, when it should have



PRESIDENT WILLIAM H. TAFT.

Believes in the Honesty and Integrity of Dr. Booker T. Washington.

been, and when he believed it to have been a white woman gives her word, like Caesar's, it would stand against all the world, so far as Negroes are concerned. We are not here to assail the discredited accusers of Dr. Washington, but to vouch for our confidence in him."

Greeted With Cheers.

Collector Anderson caused the audience to rise to its feet and cheer frantically when he lauded President Taft for his action in writing to Dr. Washington.

"He is a President who labors to make his country just," shouted Anderson, amid wild enthusiasm. "And we, who have always loved him, never loved him more dearly than after his letter to our leader, Dr. Washington."

The Rev. A. C. Powell, of the Abyssinian Church, said that America was just as much the home of Negroes as it was of anybody else.

"Send back the Russians, Jews, Germans, Italians, and send the Irishmen back to the shores of the River Shannon, and then perhaps, with Booker T. Washington at our head, we will go to the banks of the Congo and start a nation of our own," he said.

A New Steamboat.

The books of the Columbia Steamboat Company are now open for charter. Until the downtown office is opened the charter will be made at the residence of the manager, Jefferson S. Coage, No. 1911 Eleventh street northwest. The members of the new company, along with the manager, were in New York last week, and are now high in their praise of the new steamer Columbia, at present being fitted out. This enterprise is being managed solely by men of our own color in this city, with the exception of one stockholder, who comes from New York City, a member of the bar, and a highly creditable gentleman of our race. Mr. Coage reported last evening at the meeting that already every Sunday and holiday had been spoken for by well-known clubs of the city. The season promises to be the best yet seen on the Potomac River.

The steamer Columbia will easily outclass any excursion boat that the colored people have tried to operate on the Potomac River. In addition to her two pianos, one in the palm garden on first deck, and the other in the dance hall on second deck, there will be an orchestra daily employed by the company to furnish music for the passengers; so there will be no need of organizations hiring music. Another item of much concern to chartering parties is the printing: In order that the new company may be properly advertised and the printing uniformly done, the company will have the printing done by one firm, under contract, the cost of which the charterers and the steamboat company will divide equally. The Sunday dates will be let on a 33-1-3 per cent basis to the chartering party, starting with the first passenger. A deposit of \$15 will be required on each Sunday date, and \$10 on week days, and \$5 on moonlight outings.

There will be no stateroom accommodations on this steamer. The bar will be closed on all religious excursions without extra charge. The Bee will weekly outline the policy of this company. Telephone connections.

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH MAY SELL.

Colored Congregation to Get \$450,000 for Property.

Supreme Court Justice Newburger granted yesterday an application by St. Philip's Protestant Episcopal

Church to sell property extending from 115 to 131 West Thirtieth street, to the Chase Realty Company, for \$450,000. The church got permission in February to dispose of the same property to Charles Pincus and Patrick J. Ryan, but the deal fell through.

The petition stated that the property was mortgaged for \$150,000 to enable the church to move from Thirtieth street to 134th street and Seventh avenue, and build a new church there. The equity of \$300,000 in property is to be invested for the support of the church, which has a colored congregation. After the sale of the Thirtieth street property the church will own property worth \$230,000, which is subject to mortgages of \$187,000. St. Philip's Church has held the Thirtieth street property since 1835.

10 part payment for this property, as was reported in these columns a few weeks ago, the Chase Realty Company gives the church ten double flats, six stories high, at No. 107 to 145 West 135th street. The houses have a frontage of 400 feet and a depth of 99.11, which comprises, with the exception of two corners, the entire block front on the north side of the way from Lenox to Seventh avenue. This property is valued by the city at \$530,000.—New York Sun.

NEW ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Ex-Editor J. C. Asbery Divides the Order.

Mr. J. C. Asbery, formerly Editor of the Odd Fellow's Journal, and defeated candidate for Grandmaster of Odd Fellows, which convened in Baltimore, Md., last Summer, has organized a new order of Odd Fellows to be known as the Ancient Order of Odd Fellows of America. The followers of Mr. Asbery, who supported him in Baltimore, declare that he was counted out unfairly, and that they propose to organize a new order. The first meeting looking to the organization was held in Philadelphia, Pa., last month, at which time Mr. Asbery explained to his hearers the aim and object of the new organization. The next meeting will be held by Mr. Asbery in Norfolk, Va., this month, and from there he will make a tour of the United States.

AN ELEGANT SHOWING.

The colored people of New Orleans number upward of 90,000 persons. Their property is valued at \$4,000,000. They pay over a half million in taxes. In the industries the Negro is largely engaged. It is said that 60 per cent of the hard labor is done by this people. Eighty per cent of the bricklayers are Negroes, 60 per cent of the carpenters, and most of the caterers and butlers of the city are Negroes, according to the Advertiser. The Advertiser further states that there are some Negroes in the Crescent City whose checks would be honored at \$75,000. Church property is valued at \$300,000, and a private office building alone is valued at \$200,000.

Mr. Lewis in Town.

Mr. W. H. Lewis, the recently appointed Assistant Attorney General of the United States, arrived in this city yesterday evening and was sworn in Monday morning and admitted to the Court of Claims. Mr. Lewis is the cousin of Dr. John R. Francis, at 2112 Pennsylvania avenue northwest.

SANCTIFIED BELIEVERS.

Rev. Dr. William Charles Jason, president of State College, Dover, Del., occupied the pulpit at Asbury M. E. Church, Eleventh and K streets northwest, Sunday morning, and preached to a large audience. Dr. Jason took as the subject of his discourse the words: "Be Perfect." It is hard to conceive how a more interesting and scholarly sermon could be delivered than the one preached by Dr. Jason. In the sermon the speaker gave a most beautiful and reasonable explanation of "Perfection," as it relates to mankind, and the possibility of living perfect lives, but his explanation was very different from the erroneous idea as advanced by the Sanctified Believers.

Y. M. C. A. Theatre Meeting Great Success.

The large attendance of men and women at the Howard Theater last Sunday made a very successful opening of the series of meetings to be held at this theater on Sunday afternoons.

Rev. Lloyd C. Douglas delighted the people with a graphic description of the old story of "Jonah and the Whale."

Other features of the meeting were the talks by Dr. Doggett, president of the Y. M. C. A. Training School, Springfield, Mass.; Dr. J. H. McCurdy, dean of the physical department of the same institution; Mr. Wilson of Troy, Ala., and Mr. Myiata, a Japanese Y. M. C. A. student of Kobe, Japan. About 25 students of the Springfield Training School were present, and rendered several Glee Club selections.

Announcement was made that ladies will again be invited on Easter Sunday.

Baltimore, Md., March 20. Mr. W. Calvin Chase, of Washington, D. C., Editor of The Bee, and a member of the District of Columbia bar, will address a mass meeting in this city Sunday afternoon, at 4:30. His subject will be "The Man and His Duty."

Hill Has Left.

Richmond, Va., March 29. Cashier Hill, of the True Reformers Bank, is reported to have left the city. It is not known whether he will return to the State again or not. Mr. Hill has been one of the most efficient and active men in the organization.

PARAGRAPHIC NEWS

(By Miss G. B. Maxfield.)

The death of Rev. Dr. James Theodore Holly, Bishop of Haiti, the first negro consecrated by the Episcopal church, has been announced. He was born in this city in 1829, and was educated a Roman Catholic. He was ordained priest of the Episcopal body in 1856.

A bill was passed during the last Congress authorizing the appropriation of a sum of money for the erection of a monument over the grave of John Tyler, the tenth President of the United States in Hollywood Cemetery at Richmond, Va. There is now only a granite slab at the head of Tyler's grave.

It is said two Chinese young men will be admitted to West Point Academy annually.

Americans to the number of 102,017 emigrated to Canada in the first ten months of the current fiscal year—a gain of 25 per cent.

The colored citizens of Chicago protested against the "Sins of the Fathers," the new play by Thomas Dixon, being played there. They declare the play represents the Negro as "inferiors and criminals."

The first of the German-American Line of steamships to ply between America and the West Coast of Africa left New York last July. The intention was to have monthly sailings from New York direct to West Africa. It is hoped a very large trade will be built up, so as to continue the monthly trips, as it will eliminate the necessity of chartering vessels by large importers.

In a contest between the men and women of Berwick, Pa., in a church contest, 10,340 pennies were collected. One man alone collected 7,138 pennies.

Two German scientists, Drs. Seimbach and Loewy, have successfully applied wireless telegraphy for underground communication. A message was sent correctly nearly a mile and a half at a level of 1,600 feet below the surface.

A total of 7,035 is the strength of the organized and uniformed naval militia of the United States, according to the first issue of an annual register just presented by the Navy Department.

By the will of Mrs. Charlotte Augusta Bradstreet, needy life-savers or their families connected with the thirteen stations on Cape Cod are to have a benefit of \$25,000. Several charitable institutions are also beneficiaries under the will.

The Chinese Government accepted a loan of \$5,000,000 from Japan, and will give a security of 5 per cent railway bonds. The loan which will be used to meet a deficit of railway board, is without political significance.

The large axe manufacturing plant of the James H. Mann Co., of Lewistown, Pa., was destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$175,000.

Seventy-five thousand dollars has been left for the poor of Brockton, Mass., by the will of Mrs. Clara B. Snow, widow of George C. Snow, a shoe manufacturer there.

The Woman's Army and Navy League is busy collecting books and magazines to be sent to soldiers, sailors and marines stationed at remote points, who find it hard to get anything to read. The books will be called for.

Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey published an article on marriage and divorce in the United States in the February number of La Femme, printed in Paris. The editor of the magazine is much pleased with the article, and thanks Mrs. Mussey and her translator, Mme. Richard Nogaret.

What is said to be an entirely new feat in direct wireless communication was the sending of a wireless message over the Atlantic, a distance of 2,500 miles, from a ship to England, which was received correctly.

Miss Bessie Bennett, assistant director of the Chicago Art Institute, sailed to Italy to attend the Royal Museum and School of Textiles at Grayfield, Germany. It is said she is the first woman ever admitted to that school.

According to reports, when the Panama Canal is completed the British will send 1,000 troops to strengthen the Jamaica garrison.

Dr. A. A. Svetaeff, of Kostroma, Russia, who is in this country, thinks war between Russia and China is sure to result from the differences of the two countries over the treaty of 1881.

According to reports from Rome an all-night celebration in the streets, clubs and cafes, with an artillery salute at midnight, marked the opening of the jubilee celebration of the founding of United Italy.

Dr. Booker T. Washington, accompanied by his private secretary, Mr. Emmett J. Scott, passed through the city Sunday night for Tuskegee, Ala. Mr. Pope, of No. 12 M street northwest, who has been quite ill for some time, is improving.

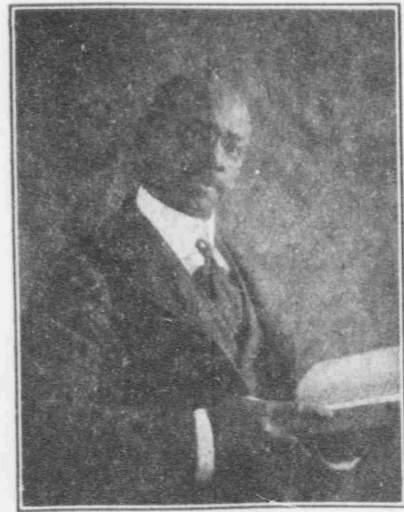
Send your name in for The Bee; it is the people's paper.

GREAT DAY AT DURHAM.

Preparing for the Closing.

Special to The Bee.
Durham, N. C., March 30. Dr. James E. Shepard, president of the National Religious Training School at Durham, N. C., is making great preparations for the closing in May. The white citizens are equally as enthusiastic in making the event one of the greatest that ever occurred here as the colored people are.

The orator of the occasion will be Justice Wendell Phillips Stafford, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. All Durham will turn out to welcome this distinguished jurist, whose name is a household word among the citizens of this place.



SHELBY J. DAVIDSON, ESQ., AN INVENTOR OF A GREAT MACHINE. COMPLIMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

given especial attention to adding and calculating machines, serving in the factories and rendering such efficient and notable service in charge of the machines in the Office of the Auditor for the Post Office as to attract the attention not only of his superiors, but of adding machine manufacturers throughout the country. This is the third invention directly bearing on the work of the Auditor's Office made by Mr. Davidson. The present device being electro-mechanical, Mr. Davidson has associated with him Mr. Edwin J. Dowling, electrician, of the Post Of-